

HOUSE BILL 712
By Turner L

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 15, Part 1; Title 40, Chapter 28, Part 1 and Title 41, Chapter 1, Part 1, relative to correctional programs and services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The chair of the board of probation and parole, the commissioner of correction and the commissioner of mental health and developmental disabilities shall jointly develop and propose an interagency model program to ensure and maximize the efficient and effective delivery of transitional mental health services for inmates who are released under parole supervision but who require continuing mental health supervision and treatment subsequent to their release. On or before December 1, 2003, the proposed model program shall be jointly presented to the select oversight committee on corrections for committee review and recommendations pertaining to implementation of the proposal.

SECTION 2. The commissioner of correction and the commissioner of mental health and developmental disabilities shall jointly develop and propose an interagency model program to ensure and maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of mental health screening, diagnosis and treatment services for incarcerated inmates who suffer from mental illness. On or before December 1, 2003, the proposed model program shall be jointly presented to the select

oversight committee for committee review and recommendations pertaining to implementation of the proposal.

SECTION 3. The commissioner of correction and the commissioner of education shall jointly examine and assess the efficiency and effectiveness of current department of correction programs to provide educational services to incarcerated inmates. In performing such examination and assessment, the commissioners shall determine whether greater programmatic efficiency and effectiveness would most likely be achieved if the department of education exercised greater oversight or programmatic responsibilities with respect to the design and delivery of such educational services. On or before December 1, 2003, joint findings and comments shall be presented to the select oversight committee on corrections for committee review and recommendations.

SECTION 4. The chair of the board of probation and parole, the commissioner of correction and the commissioner of labor and workforce development shall jointly develop and propose an interagency model program to more effectively and efficiently transition and reintegrate inmates into the community and workplace. In developing such model program, inclusion of the following transitional services shall be considered: employment skills training, career counseling, job placement, job empowerment training, domestic violence education and prevention, and pre-release planning through case management, community service, life skills training and linkages with community organizations and private employers. On or before December 1, 2003, the proposed interagency model program shall be jointly presented to the select oversight committee on corrections for committee review and recommendations pertaining to implementation of the proposal.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.